

# C'VILLE DEMS

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## News and Updates from the Cville Dems (11/30/2023)

### 3 easy ways you can support Cville Dems today:

- Forward this to friends who aren't politically engaged but might want to know what the Cville Dems do and stand for.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [X/Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Mastodon](#), and like some of our posts!
- [Make a contribution](#)

### In This Issue:

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- Enjoy the holidays!
- January 6 Reorganization Meeting: Opportunities for New People with New Ideas!
- Executive & Full Committee Meeting Reports 11/27/23
- Preaching BEYOND the Choir
- UDEMS reorganization

Note: if Gmail isn't showing you all of this newsletter, look near the bottom of the email for a link reading "[Message clipped] View entire message". Or... read the complete issue on our website once we upload it (usually within an hour of sending this mail).

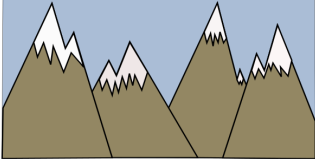
# Happy Holidays!

Whichever ones you're celebrating, enjoy them to their fullest! Our best wishes to you and yours for a great 2024!



## Upcoming Events

- **1/1** — Ring in the New (and presidential election) Year
- **1/6** 2pm — Cville Dems Reorganization Meeting (location TBA, see below)
- **1/10** — Virginia General Assembly Session begins
- **1/15** — Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



## January 6 Reorganization Meeting: Opportunities for New People with New Ideas!

Here's what we'll do at our every-other-year election meeting ("Reorganizational Mass Meeting") on January 6 at 2pm (location to be announced soon):

1. Elect precinct representatives, who then choose a chair or co-chairs for each precinct.
2. The just-elected precinct representatives and ex officio members, who together make up the Charlottesville

Democratic Committee (usually referred to as "the Full Committee"), then elect the following Executive Officers for two-year terms: Chair (or Co-Chairs), Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Jason Vandever (Treasurer) and Nancy Damon (Vice Chair) have agreed to continue in their roles, but John McLaren (Chair) and Mary Ann Harris (Secretary) will be stepping down from those roles (but staying involved!) when their terms expire. Layperson descriptions of these various offices are [here](#); descriptions of the precinct roles (and officer roles) are in our [bylaws](#). Dan Doernberg (Communications Chair, an appointed position) is also stepping down at the end of his term.

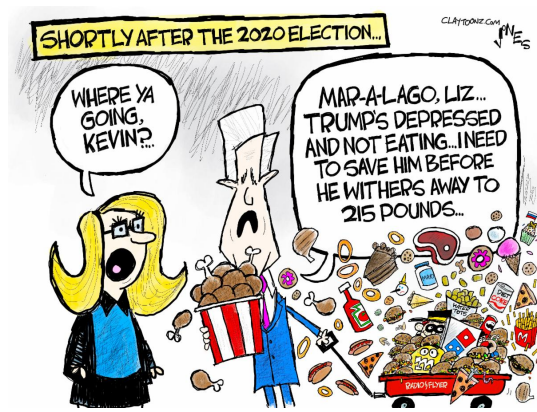
These "changing of the guard" elections are critically important for every organization, including ours; it's always important to have fresh faces and new ideas in the leadership mix.

To put it bluntly, we need you! We all know that the 2024 election will be a struggle for the future of this country. If we don't grow the party (bring in new people with new energy and ideas), we'll have to live with a re-elected President Trump and more MAGA extremists in all branches of government. If that's not an acceptable future to you, then please rise to the challenge and play a part!

- If you're on our mailing list but haven't ever gotten formally involved, this pivotal election year would be a really good time to "wade in" just a bit! Two of the ways you might do this (neither a big time commitment):
  - become a precinct representative, which gives you a voice in shaping the party, and plugs you into our volunteer network and all the practical ways you can work for good.
  - join one of our teams (Communications, Voter Registration, Voter Protection, etc.).
- If you're already a little bit involved, this incredibly consequential election year is a good time to commit just a bit more by taking on one of our open leadership positions.
- If you know people who you think could make good contributions to the Cville Dems, encourage them to come check us out (all of our meetings are public, including January 6). Anyone who lives in and is registered to vote in Charlottesville is eligible to stand for election to become a member of our committee and have a voice in shaping our local party's actions and positions on issues.



If you'd like to get more information or have a question about a role you might consider taking, please contact John McLaren as soon as possible at [cville Dems chair@gmail.com](mailto:cville Dems chair@gmail.com) and he'll be happy to explain all.



## REPORTS: Executive & Full Committee Meetings 11/27

The Executive Committee met and, after a few minutes of discussion, approved January 6, 2pm as the date and time for the biennial Reorganizational Mass Meeting (location to be announced soon). That meeting adjourned immediately and

the Full Committee meeting began, with these highlights:

- Jim Nix's "after-action report" on the 2023 election (see below).
- Brainstorming about 2024 (e.g. how to reach younger voters, who has announced or may announce soon as a candidate to run against Bob Good, Republicans outstaffing us at polling locations on Election Day and Early Voting).
- Every two years, in accordance with overarching DPVA rules and our bylaws, we elect new officers. This is happening on Saturday, January 6, at 2:00pm (location TBA). See above for more on this important function, but now's the time to start considering what role you want to play in defending democracy in 2024!
- Albemarle Dems' representative Madison Cummings thanked the many Cville Dems who (1) came out to their pre-election canvassing event featuring Senator Warner and (2) helped in various ways get Allison Spillman and other County candidates elected.
- Fifth District report by Erin Monaghan: determined Democrats from each county and city in the Fifth gathered in

Lynchburg at the district-wide 9/30 Extravaganza to make new friends and honor community contributors from the District. Senator Creigh Deeds and former congressional candidate Dr. Cameron Webb were speakers, and former Congressional candidate Josh Throneburg gave the evening's invocation and dinner blessing. Charlottesville was well-represented! The Charlottesville community contributor honored was Leah Puryear (nominated by Erin). Erin brought back for Leah a certificate of recognition and small token of the Fifth District Committee's gratitude and esteem for her career of service to the youth of Charlottesville, and to the entire city as an appointed City Council member.



There will not be a December meeting, so the next meeting will be the 1/6 biennial Reorganizational Mass Meeting.

## Post-Election Summary from the Electoral Board

Jim Nix was kind enough to provide this data about the November 2023 election and a write-up from his presentation at our 11/27 meeting:

Precinct	Active Registered Precinct Voters	9 AM Turnout	% Voting (of Active Registered)	1 PM Turnout	% Voting (of Active Registered)	4 PM Turnout	% Voting (of Active Registered)	FINAL COUNTED	% Voting (of Active Registered)
101 - Recreation	4107	196	4.8%	592	14.4%	833	20.3%	1075	26.17%
102 - Clark	3792	194	5.1%	559	14.7%	789	20.8%	1115	29.40%
201 - Carver	2906	111	3.8%	334	11.5%	506	17.4%	679	23.37%
202 - Venable	3137	60	1.9%	271	8.6%	382	12.2%	485	15.46%
301 - Jackson-Via	3644	223	6.1%	552	15.1%	771	21.2%	1015	27.85%
302 - Johnson	3073	132	4.3%	458	14.9%	610	19.9%	813	26.46%
303 - Buford	2928	95	3.2%	268	9.2%	419	14.3%	615	21.00%
401 - Charlottesville	3729	229	6.1%	641	17.2%	914	24.5%	1227	32.90%
402 - Walker	2846	143	5.0%	425	14.9%	605	21.3%	778	27.34%
Central Absentee								3837	
Provisional Votes*								759	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,162</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>5,829</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>12,398</b>	<b>41.10%</b>

Turnout for this election was much higher than expected at 41% of active registered voters. Early voting was slow until the final week before the election but ended up almost the same as in the June primary when Election Day voting, and Early Voting were both around 4000.

The chief election officials at each precinct report turnout at 9am, 1pm, and 4pm, and experience has shown that the city-wide total at the 9am report is generally 20% of the turnout for the day with 50% voting by 1pm. We were expecting 800 by 9am, and when that report was nearly 1400, we knew that we

needed to print additional ballots.

Another surprise was the high volume of same-day registrations. There were 771 provisional ballots cast, nearly all of them for same-day registration. Of these, 759 were approved, surprisingly more than the 673 in Albemarle County. Only 6 were rejected for being in the wrong precinct, a big improvement over last November when, in the first election with this option, there were 28 out of 950.

Voter registration has declined since the last presidential election, falling from over 33,000 to little more than 30,000 active voters. Registration normally peaks in Presidential election years, declining as voters move and students graduate. Voter registration must be a high priority this coming year.

With a Democratic majority in both houses of the General Assembly, no significant changes in election law are expected for the 2024 elections. There will be three elections next year: a Presidential primary March 5, a U.S. House and Senate primary June 18, and the Presidential general election November 5. Early voting in the Presidential primary will begin on January 19.

We need to recruit additional election officials, especially for the November general election. Republicans are in especially short supply, and we are required by law to ensure that both parties are represented among the election workers at each precinct.



## Treasurer's Report

Jason Vandever couldn't make the November meeting, so he's passed on this summary report:

The Committee filed its 3rd Quarter financial report with the State Board of Elections in October. All financial filings for the Committee can be found on the SBE's website [here](#). The Committee ended the quarter with a balance of \$30,071 and is on track to finish the calendar year with a slight surplus over the projected budget, primarily due to lower than expected November election expenses. A new biennial budget will be prepared

in January for the newly-formed Executive Committee's approval.

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## Preaching BEYOND the Choir (Why electing Dems matters!)

We've all heard that many people (next year's voters!) feel that the economy is bad and Pres. Biden isn't managing it well... and perceptions are more important than whatever the objective reality is. But it's helpful for us to keep both in mind so that, as we talk to friends and family (over the holidays and otherwise), we can patiently them out but then provide some alternate perspectives for them to consider. So:

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"US economic growth was even stronger in the third quarter than previously estimated, underscoring the economy's remarkable resilience in the face of elevated inflation and high borrowing costs earlier this year. Gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic output, rose at an annualized rate of 5.2% from July through September..." [CNN, 11/29/23](#)



"Regular readers know that I've been trying to make sense of negative public perceptions of the economy since the beginning of last year. At the time some of the economic news was bad: Inflation was high and wages were lagging behind prices, although job growth was very good. So it made sense for Americans to be somewhat down on the economy; but it didn't seem to make sense for views of the economy to be as negative as they had been during the depths of the 2008 financial crisis or circa 1980, when America had both high inflation and high unemployment. Since then, however, the puzzle has become much deeper. The economic news in 2023 has been almost all good — indeed, almost surreally good. Inflation has come way down. Most measures that try to get at “underlying” inflation, extracting the signal from the noise, indicate that we may be getting close to 2 percent inflation, which is the Federal Reserve's target. This suggests that the war on inflation has been largely won — and this victory has come without the large rise in unemployment some economists had insisted was necessary. Furthermore, wages are no longer lagging behind inflation. Most workers' real wages — wages adjusted for inflation — are now significantly higher than they were before the pandemic. (Pandemic-era wage numbers were distorted by large layoffs of low-wage workers.)" [Paul Krugman, NYTimes, 10/5/23](#)

"The state of the economy looms large in this theory. In survey after survey, large majorities of respondents say both that the economy is terrible and that Biden is doing a bad job managing it. For months, American economists and policy wonks have expressed puzzlement about these results, pointing to strong GDP growth, low unemployment, the lack of a recession in the US, and cooling inflation rates. But after a two-year period featuring the highest inflation in decades, prices are still a whole lot higher than they were four years ago — and voters seem not to have forgiven that just yet. (This has been a global phenomenon, worse in Europe than in the US, that could be dragging down many incumbents.)" [Vox, 11/27/23](#)

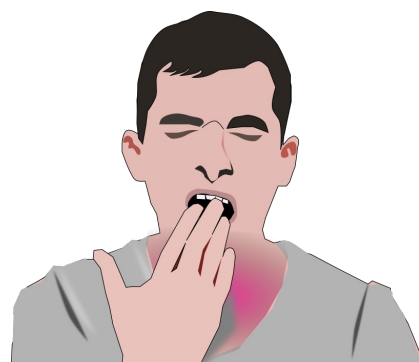


"President Joe Biden may soon bear witness to an economic miracle: Inflation has slowed and Wall Street is bullish about the chances of the U.S. avoiding a recession next year despite the Federal Reserve's record rate hikes. But achieving a so-called soft landing might not mean a lick to voters... "We do know he is NOT getting credit for good jobs numbers and decent growth BECAUSE of inflation. If unemployment goes up, will Biden get enough credit for deflation that jobs and growth don't matter to voters? We just don't know," Murray said." [Politico, 11/29/23](#)

"The demographics of Mr. Biden's 2020 supporters may explain part of his challenge now: They were on balance younger, had lower incomes and were more racially diverse than Mr. Trump's. Those groups tend to be hit hardest by inflation, which has yet to return to 2020 levels, and high interest rates, which have frustrated first-time home buyers and drained the finances of those dependent on credit... So far, Mr. Biden's messaging has focused on macroeconomic indicators like the unemployment rate and tackling inflation. "The truth is, that's not the economy to most people," Mr. Doss said. "The economy to most people is gas prices and food and whether or not they can afford to throw a birthday party for their kid." [NY Times, 11/28/23](#)

Of course the election is *not* just about the economy, so we'll end with one other perspective on Biden's/Dem's challenge:

"I realize that to note that Joe Biden is boring is not exactly breaking news. Michael Schaffer of Politico wrote more than a year ago that Biden not only kept his promise to be unexciting but also "over-





delivered.” My friend Molly Jong-Fast this fall noted for Vanity Fair that “[Team Biden’s] superpower, its ability to slide under the radar while getting a lot done for the American people, may also be its Achilles heel, holding back the administration from getting the credit it deserves.” She places much of the blame on the media—a fair cop—but I think a lot else is going on that has less to do with Biden and more to do with the voters themselves. The deeper problem is that America years ago entered a “post-policy” era, in which the voters simply stopped caring very much about the nuts and bolts of governing. Rather than policy, they care about politics as a spectator event—much like sports or reality television—and they want it to be exciting. They want to root for heroes and heels; they want to feel high charges of emotion, especially anger; they want their votes to express a sense of personal identification with candidates. Biden can’t fulfill any of those desires. That’s to his credit, but it’s killing him politically.”  
[The Atlantic, 11/27/2023](#)

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## We're not the only Dems Reorganizing!

Congratulations and good luck to the new UVA Democrats ([UDems](#)) leadership team:



## Executive Board 2024

<b>President</b>	Ella Nelsen
<b>Vice President</b>	Emily Eppard
<b>Campaign Chair</b>	Mariel DiNatale
<b>Finance Chair</b>	Brianna Sharpe
<b>Social Chair</b>	Hannah Vollen
<b>Policy Chair</b>	Deirdre Belger
<b>Communications Chair</b>	Cate Whittaker
<b>Outreach Chair</b>	Semony Shah
<b>Secretary</b>	Logan Sowers

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## Partner Organizations

Our friends the [UVA Dems](#), [Albemarle Dems](#), [Greene County Dems](#),

Nelson County Dems, and (the relatively new!) [Charlottesville Area Young Democrats](#) are doing good things too, check them out!

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**Charlottesville Democratic Party ("Cville Dems")**

<https://cvilledems.org>

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**Contact us: [cvilledemschair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemschair@gmail.com)**

**Add me to the [mailing list](#)**

**Thank you for your support!**

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Co-chair: vacant

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